

Volume 14

Issue 4

March 27, 2009

Media Day: Fun at the Belcourt

by Nicholas Green

As the Montgomery Bell Academy buses arrived at Belcourt Theatre for the annual Media Day with Harpeth Hall, the first thing on the minds of most of the guys was "Where are the Honeybears?" As they entered the theatre, these gentlemen heard the high-pitched chatter of girls who were clearly anticipating the arrival of the guys!

Once everyone was seated, Adam Ross, film teacher at Harpeth Hall, explained several of Alfred Hitchcock's unique techniques; Hitchcock was an outstanding director, whose films, including *Rear Window*, *The Birds*, and *Psycho*, are

still considered masterpieces. After Mr. Ross showed the beginning credits and a scene from *North by Northwest*, he talked about how Hitchcock structured his movies.

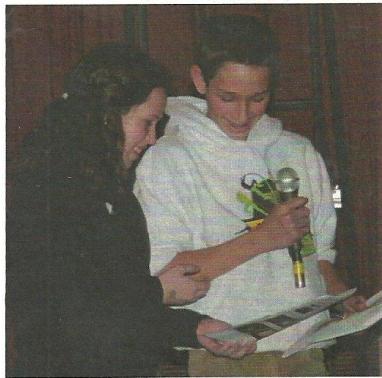
Most of the students in the audience enjoyed the rather long movie *Vertigo*. This film tells the story of Scottie, who falls in love with the mysterious Madeline. Scottie suffers from vertigo, a condition that causes extreme dizziness. Because of his vertigo, Scottie finds himself involved in the death of an innocent woman. The mystery and action continue until the final, surprising scene.

Once the film was finished, everyone enjoyed tasty pizza. The

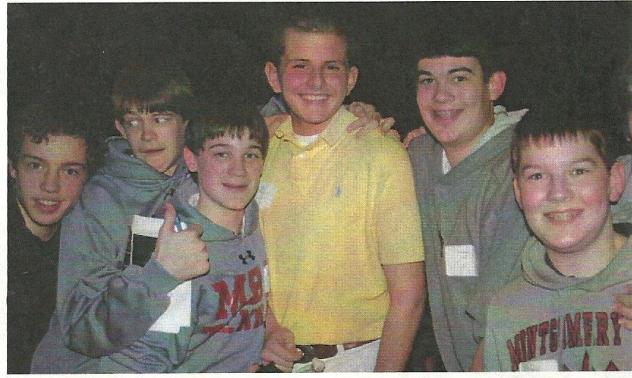
students then split up into groups to analyze several scenes in the movie; representatives from each group presented their responses. Both Brandon Key and McKay Proctor had outstanding comments and received appreciative applause.

Animated film critic, Jim Ridley of the *Nashville Scene*, ended the day's activities by praising the skills of Hitchcock and briefly analyzing several other movies.

The day came to an end; the groups boarded their buses and returned to their schools. Media Day was a fun experience and a pleasant change from the regular school day.

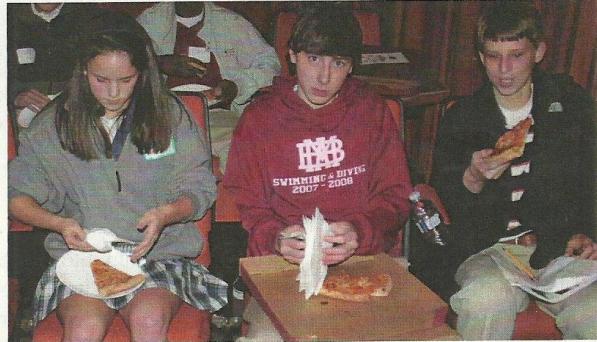


Nathan apparently enjoys sharing the stage.



Friends congratulate McKay Proctor on his incredible movie analysis.

MEDIA DAY



Tate and Taylor look like they'd rather be in Algebra.



"We like watching Hitchcock with the Honeybears."



The audience reacts to the comments of Jim Ridley, movie critic.



Jetarii and Kamani obviously enjoy Media Day!



"What's vertigo?"

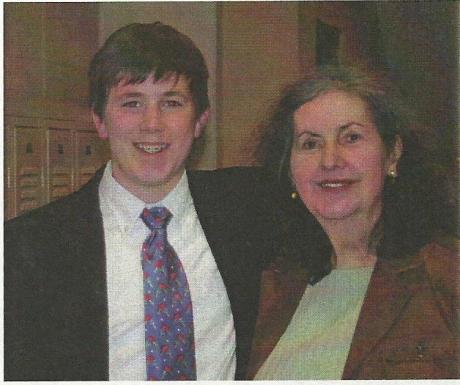


Girls on the left; guys on the right. This group just doesn't understand collaboration!

Grandparents Day



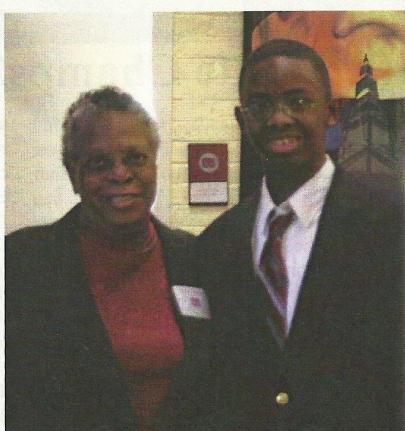
Alex Matheny with Steve and Suzanne Pate



Chris and Maxine Duffey



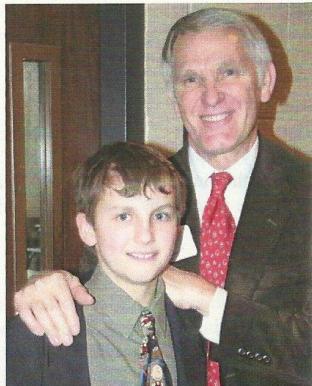
Adam Biesman and Irma Kaplan



Annie Bratton and Paul Moore



Kaye O'Kelley and Falkner Werkhaven



Ryan Owen and Jamie Tillman



Frank and Jane Tacker with Wells Hamilton

ON THE HILL

Mathcounts: Eight Consecutive City Championships!



AND...State Champs!

by Tom Bu

Mathcounts is a national math association dedicated to promoting excellence in math for middle school students. Each competition has three rounds: Sprint, Target, and Team. The Sprint round tests speed and accuracy. The problems are not multiple choice, which make them more complicated. Participants have forty minutes to complete thirty questions. The Target round has a total of eight questions, given separately in pairs, six minutes per pair. The test takers have more time, but the problems are harder. The Team round involves team members who have been picked to represent the school. They work together to do ten problems in twenty minutes. Mathcounts has different levels of competition: School, Chapter, State, and National. In the School round, the school picks the members for the competition. This year representing Montgomery Bell was the team of Hunter Tidwell, Tom Bu, Sam Hurd, and John Mellow; William Yang, Kevin Wang, George Swenson, and Kalyan Chadalavada competed as individual participants. These Mathcounts members have been working extremely hard throughout the year, every

Tuesday and Thursday for the second half of lunch. Their practice carries over to certain weekends when they take four hour-long practice tests. They even had to come in four times over the summer for practice tests. In this year's Chapter competition on February 7, 2009, Tom Bu came in first, Hunter Tidwell third, and John Mellow ninth individually. As for the team, MBA came in first for the eighth consecutive year, narrowly surpassing their main rival, Woodland Middle School by approximately .75 points. The State competition was held on March 14, 2009; Tom Bu, Hunter Tidwell, John Mellow, and Sam Hurd competed. The MBA team won again at State, with Hunter Tidwell coming in third and Tom Bu eighth. With the MBA team winning state, Maggie Qian will coach Tennessee's state team for Nationals, which consists of the top four winners from State. Hunter is now eligible for the National competition held in Orlando, Florida, on May 8, 2009.

Here are a few Mathcounts problems from past competitions. (Answers are on page 7.)

State

Sprint: A solar system contains four planets

and a sun. Planet A completes an orbit around the sun in 20 months; planet B completes an orbit in 36 months; planet C completes an orbit in 40 months; and planet D completes an orbit in 48 months. If the four planets lie along a straight line in May of the year 2000, what is the next year that they will again lie along the same line? Assume that the orbits are circular and that a year has exactly 12 months.

Target: Bill is sent to a donut shop to purchase exactly six donuts. If the shop has four kinds of donuts and Bill is to get at least one of each kind, how many combinations will satisfy Bill's order requirements?

National

Sprint: When Rachel divides her favorite number by 7, she gets a remainder of 5. What will the remainder be if she multiplies her favorite number by 5 and then divides by 7?

Target: A 4-in. by 4-in. by 4-in. cube is painted and then cut into sixty-four 1-in. by 1-in. by 1-in. cubes. A unit cube is then randomly selected and rolled. What is the probability that the top face of the rolled cube is painted? Express your answer as a common fraction.

ON THE HILL

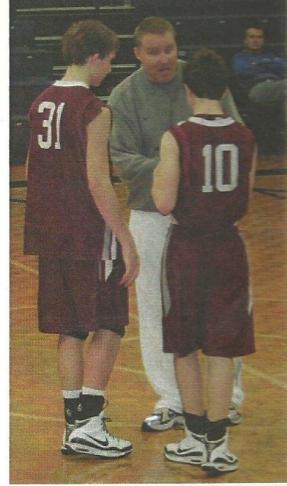
Scholastic Art Awards Silver Medalists



David Spencer



John Mellow



Andrew Einstman
and Dylan Hall
receive the runner-up
plaque for the HVAC tournament.

Science Olympiads Regional Runners-Up

by Hamilton Millwee

On February 18, 2009, sixteen athletes of the science sort battled in fierce, mind-to-mind combat with other schools from the Middle Tennessee area for the chance to become...a science Olympian. Even after a late-night cram session which, for most, continued into the wee hours of the morning, we weary souls, led by Dr. Marro, woke up at 4:15 so that we could be at MBA by 5:30. Then there was the long drive to MTSU, where the Olympic Games were held. This drive was the most perilous part of the entire journey for one reason...the breakdown. We seem to be cursed by the fact that every year during the ride there, all of the building events, which worked perfectly the night before, go kaput. This year the curse struck again and spoiled the robot, which somehow had the wrong

type of computer attached to it; the plane, though housed in a plastic box, had the rudder broken off; and the car, which mysteriously went less than half-way to the mark it was supposed to hit. Knowing that some disaster happens every year, Dr. Marro told us to "pwn them" in the academic events. This we did. We placed 1st in five events, 2nd in three events, 3rd in one event, and

many other top-five placements. There are 23 total events. With this utter supremacy, we were able to bounce back from our near last-place-finishes on the building events and take second-place behind Saint Rose. This success gives us the chance to hone our inner scientist and "pwn some more n00bs" at state.



ON THE HILL

Math Invitational Held at MBA

by John Mellow

On Saturday, March 7, while most MBA students were sleeping, a group of sixth graders from the Nashville area gathered between 8:00 and 8:30 a.m. at MBA in Massey Commons. They were all here for the 2009 MBA Math Invitational. The top three math students from twenty different schools came for the third annual math competition that MBA has hosted. These sixty students started their tests at 9:00 in the morning, and had 45 minutes to complete 25 problems with no calculators. The

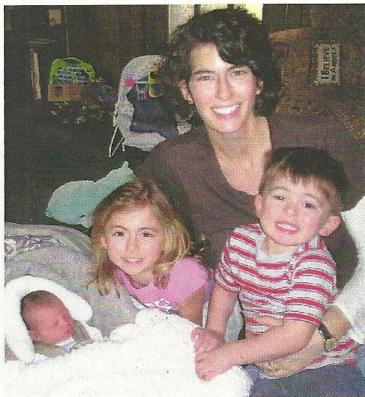


questions ranged from long division to mixed fractions to percents to more complicated word problems. "Some of it was easy, but some of it was a lot harder," said one competitor. Another wished for a second chance, saying, "If I had worked harder, I would have gotten two more questions." All across the board, however, the participants said it was fun, or at least, "as fun as math can be on a Saturday morning." After the competition, the students waited around for pizza and the

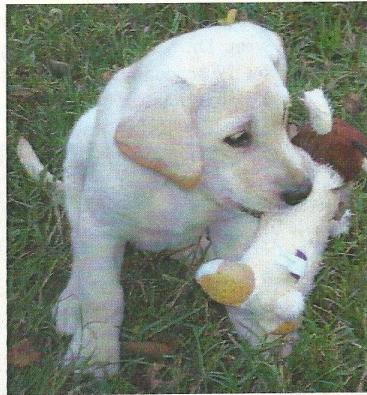


results. At around 11:30, the results were in. Zachary Sherman, Gene Li, and Isabella Christianson Galina got first, second, and third, respectively. They all tied at 23, but Sherman won the tiebreaker because he answered more of the harder questions. Sumner Academy and Head Middle School tied for first place, and J.T. Moore came in third. Congratulations to all of the competitors, and thanks to all of the coordinators who made the 2009 MBA Math Invitational a success.

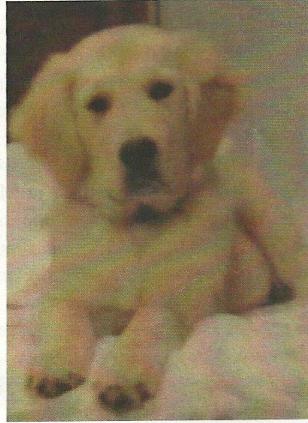
New Additions--Congrats!



*Ruby Mae is welcomed by
Sabrina, Gina, and Hawkins
Russell. Emmett is the proud dad.*



*Atticus joined
Robert Sawyer's family.*



*Walter Christeson
thinks he is king of Leiper's Fork!*

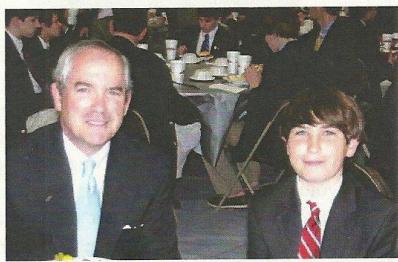
FATHER-SON DINNER



Will and Webb Campbell with Trey and Whit Emerson



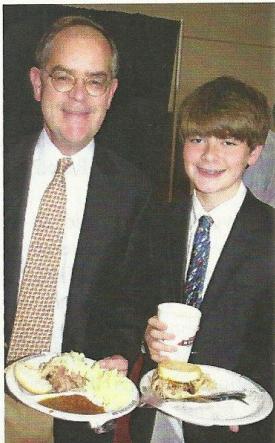
Larry, Scott, and Clay Ramsey



Charlie and Chippy Evans



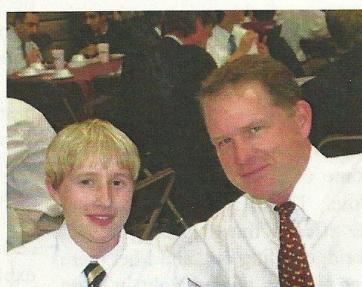
Mitchell, William, and Jim Flautt



Jim and Hayes Cooper



Ben and Steve Shankle



Fred and Russell Harwell



Bill and David Maynard

Mathcounts answers
from page 4: 20, 10, 4,
and 1/4

ENTERTAINMENT

Knowing

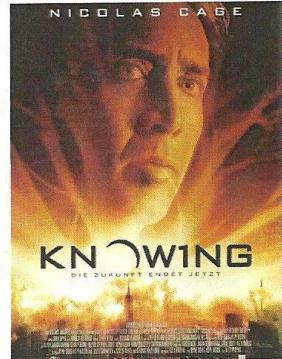
by Ryan Potter

With speculation about when the world could perhaps end, everyone wishes he had a key to how it will all go down. The questions may include when will the next catastrophe be; when will it occur; and what is the final all-out destroyer of the human race?

The recently released movie, *Knowing*, concerns the discovery of when the world will end. The movie starts out with the re-opening of a time capsule at an elementary school. At this school, a mysterious discovery is made. A young boy, Caleb Koestler, finds a sheet of paper with numbers on it. Mystified by the numbers, Caleb immediately takes the paper to his dad, John Koestler, played by the magnificent

Nicholas Cage, who is a teacher at the elementary school. John Koestler studies the paper long into the night to no avail, but he soon makes a stunning discovery: the paper's numbers represent all of the Earth's natural disasters and numbers of deaths. Some numbers represent past events while some numbers represent the future. Koestler knows that these numbers may predict the end of the world, and he must warn everyone. However, how does he know he can save the world? Will he be able to stop the predictions from coming true? How can he do it alone? Check out this movie, which hit theaters March 20th, and learn the answers to these intriguing questions.

Knowing belongs to the mystery/drama/thriller genre, so this movie will receive much attention. Director and co-writer Alex Proyas, whom many have compared to Michael Bay, will

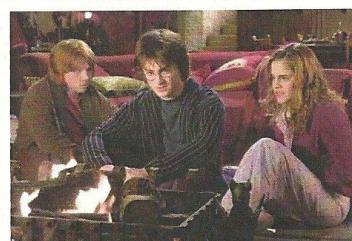


surely not let this movie be mediocre. The movie is rated PG-13 and is not for anyone who fears destruction and the end of the world. However, if you want to see a movie that may change your view of life and what the future may hold, get to a theater and watch this must-see movie. Since "Knowing is Everything," this movie will help us understand why this motto is true.

would advise going to the movie.

X-Men Origins: Wolverine

Starring: Hugh Jackman, Liev Strieber, and Taylor Kitsch. Not Yet Rated



entertaining. As I watched the preview, I realized there might be a little bit more comic relief in this one, but it's still going to follow true Harry Potter fashion as Harry, Ron, and Hermione fight to save both their lives and others from Voldemort. The movie is going to have some dark aspects to it as well, and some of your favorite characters may die. There are some exciting special effects: things getting blown up, a bridge falling out, and I bet there is going to be a wizard fight in there somewhere. If you like the series, I

If you are an avid X-Men fan, you may have sat up late at night wondering to yourself: "How did Wolverine start out? I mean most people are not born with steel claws, right?" Well, this movie will answer your questions. It tells the story of our good friend Wolverine's violent past and his complex relationship with Victor Creed and the program Weapon X. Throughout the movie, you're sure to see some of your favorite mutants, old and new. If you liked the X-Men series, this is the movie for you. If explosions are your thing— Wolverine blows up a lot of stuff. You won't be disappointed.

Summer Movies

by Nick Trogdon

Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince

Starring: Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson, Rupert Grint, Tom Felton, and Helena Bonham Carter.

Rating: PG

There is almost always a Harry Potter movie somewhere in the mix, and here is this year's Harry Potter. If you liked the series, you are probably going to see this movie. If you have not read any of the books or seen any of the movies, the movie will still be

ENTERTAINMENT

Luv Language

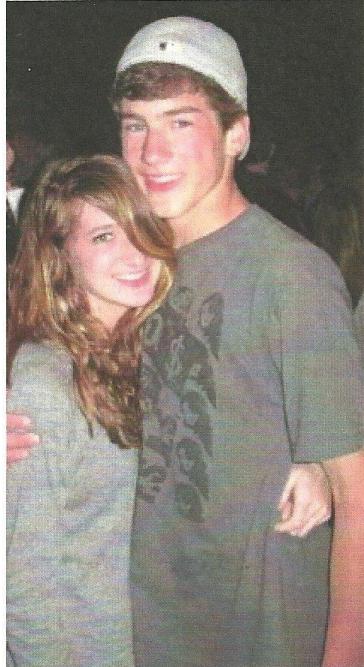
by Penn Murfee

Dear Docta Luv, I am having some trouble understanding some of the things my girlfriend says. Do you think you could explain some of the most common phrases that you hear?

Thanks, Confused Lover

Sure I can! I get this all the time. Women can be hard to understand sometimes, but this challenge does not mean you should give up. They only want what's best for the two of you. See if these explanations help.

1. "If you don't know why I'm angry, then I'm not going to tell you!"
(Courtesy of Mrs. Anne Christeson).



The expert in action

Street Fighter IV

by Hunter Crabtree

Street Fighter IV was released on February 17, 2009, by publisher and developer, Capcom. The game reminisces back to the days of the *Street Fighter II* arcade cabinet with all twelve original characters and a few more. Many of the characters have moves and move mechanics similar to the arcade version of the series. The game is very easy to pick up and also accommodates a fairly wide range of player skill levels, from experts to beginners. One standout feature of the

game is its highly stylized art design, as opposed to many games that are trying to reach a look of photorealism. Once the single-player campaign is completed, the multiplayer takes the game down to its roots, head-to-head fights. These head-to-head matches can take place at anytime throughout the game; they can even interrupt a match

in single-player. You can also set up matches with your friends instead of trying to take on the mass of players on Xbox Live or the Playstation Network. This game essentially takes the *Street Fighter* series and adds all the best features of the fighting genre. The game is available on the Xbox 360 and Playstation 3 and is rated T.



Page 9

ENTERTAINMENT

My, how cartoons have changed. . .

by Jackson Crook and
Christian Sargent

Gone are the days of a bright and early Saturday morning, turning on the TV to a new episode of "Johnny Bravo," "Ed Edd 'n Eddy," or "I Am Weasel" shows about friendship, good relationships with your mothers, caring for one another, jawbreakers, hair gel, and parents missing the upper half of their bodies. I recently decided to revisit my old friend, Cartoon Network, and was horrified when I saw the drastic changes that had been made to the entire channel. These changes were many and for the worse.

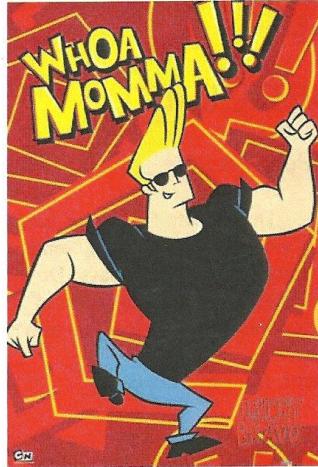
The great classics of "Cow & Chicken" and "Courage the Cowardly Dog" had been replaced by a menagerie of ridiculous, newer cartoon series. Programs such as "The Marvelous Misadventures of Flapjack" (which are, in my opinion, just the opposite), "Chowder," and "Johnny Test" have completely ruined the entire channel for many of its former viewers.

"The Marvelous Misadventures of Flapjack" tells the story of an obnoxious young boy and his pickle-like friend as they invest in all sorts of hardly comical and completely distasteful antics in their pirate-fantasy-type environment. "Chowder" tells the story of a chubby, annoying, purple, dinosaur-like creature (sound familiar, all you Barney veterans?), who participates in what seems to be a dysfunctional cooking school of some

sort.

Finally, we come to the culturally-challenged antics of one Johnny Test, a young boy whose elder sisters happen to be genius scientists who use Johnny as their personal lab rat. The animation is such that the network must have cared only about the money they could save by doing the bare minimum and not at all about the poor children who would undoubtedly suffer from nausea, heartburn, indigestion, upset stomach, and diarrhea upon viewing the show. The plot and dialogue are lacking in every department except for unbelievably immature one-liners. The situation is so bad that when Cartoon Network was promoting "Johnny Test" as a new show, one of the highlights was a clip of Johnny saying, "Who busted a grumpy?" Hahaha, a new term for flatulence. One can only wonder if that line was seriously intended to provoke laughter.

Cartoon Network, we, the children, beseech you, end the misery before it can get any worse! You must kill the cancer before it grows too large to defeat. Childhood comes once in a lifetime. Don't let it be polluted by bad cartoons!



Johnny Bravo--a real man!



Bring back "Cow and Chicken"!



Johnny Test: a source of nausea
Page 10

FEATURES

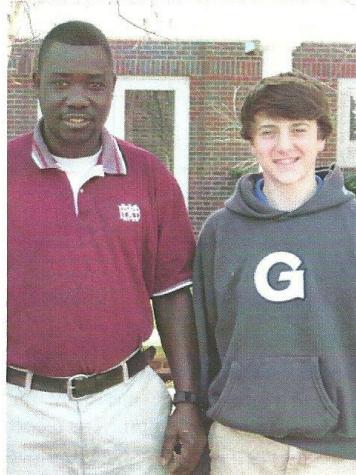
A Daring Journey

by Hayden Deakins

The first thing I could think of when my history teacher introduced the next unit we would be covering over sub-Saharan Africa was not all the carnage that civil unrest and the AIDS virus had reeked across the region, but rather all the fascinating stories of the brave people who looked past the adversity that surrounded them, persevered through tough times, and reached success. One person stuck out in my mind as I thought about these wonderful people: Mr. George Mario. Mr. Mario, a member of our maintenance crew, is the epitome of the story I was considering. I recently asked him to sit down and let me ask him a few questions about his past life in his native country of Sudan.

Mr. Mario was born in Juba, Sudan, which is essentially the 'capital' of southern Sudan. His father was a politician and possessed a large coffee farm. Because of his father's status, his family was better off financially than many others. Because there were permanent employees on the farm to work, Mr. Mario was able to receive an education and finish high school. During his school days, Mr. Mario, with his very generous heart, tried to help orphans who had no jobs with their tuition payments.

However, everything was not exactly picture-perfect in Juba. The oppressive northern Islamic government discriminated against southerners and persecuted them because of their Christian faith. This discrimination of southerners extended



From Sudan to MBA

so far that they could not get a job or receive an education because they were Christians. The northern government repeatedly demanded that southerners convert to Islam, and then they would treat them with much more hospitality and equality. A group of southern rebels, trying to free southerners from the oppressive government, attacked the northern government, and a violent war ensued. This war was brought right to Mr. Mario's doorstep.

One day as he was attending his high school, a force of northern rebels attacked Mr. Mario's school. They surrounded the building and opened fire. Several of his classmates were killed right in front of him, but he managed to escape.

After the gruesome attack at his high school, Mr. Mario fled from the violence to Asmara, Eritrea, a small country east of Sudan, where he lived peacefully for three years.

Mr. Mario then did an interview with UNHCR, a UN organization that deals with refugees. Once the UNHCR in Eritrea had his 'application,' they then sent it to UNHCR headquarters

in Geneva, Switzerland. Mr. Mario qualified to leave Eritrea for a more peaceful country. Several options were presented to him, such as going to Canada, Denmark, Australia, Sweden, and Norway, but a friend approached him and told Mr. Mario: "George, go to Tennessee." He stuck with his friend's advice and arrived in Nashville in 1999. Not only did he leave a place he called home (at least for a little while) but also his family. He told me that since 1990, he has not seen many of his family members.

Once Mr. Mario arrived in Nashville, the Catholic Charities organization helped him get on his feet as they found him a job and a place to live. Mr. Mario needed enough money in order to pay back the INS (Immigration and Naturalization Service), which paid for his travel arrangements. The first job that was given to him was lifting very heavy objects. This job did not suit him because it hurt his back. So, the Catholic Charities of Nashville got him a job at MBA.

When I asked him what he liked best about America, he replied with a grin on his face: "Freedom." He went on to tell me that he greatly values his freedom and declared, "There is nothing apart from freedom. It is the most important thing in life."

I also asked Mr. Mario what he liked best about his job. Yet another grin lit up his face and he replied: "First of all people are all friendly." He also told me that he loved to work outside, meet new people, and talk to people. Last of all, he told me with a chuckle, "I always want to be busy."

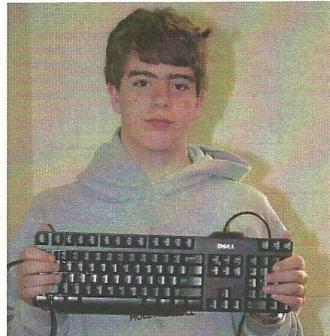
Mr. Mario is truly an amazing person. If you ever want to talk to him about anything, you can always approach him, for he loves to meet new people.

FEATURES

The Discussion Board

by Chris Hooks

Checking the discussion boards on your First Class has become a hassle, to say the least. People who have been dubbed "spammers" by the rest of the MBA community have riddled the discussion, announcements, lost and found, and even recently the clubs and organizations boards with irrelevant posts, fake ID's, and off-topic comments to what used to be interesting conversations. Some of the spammers have found the way to



change their names on the actual board, but upon opening the messages, the reader finds the real culprit. The recent post on the clubs and organizations board was about a so-called "Staples Club" that read, "If you stay in the club, you get gold staples!" These posts were soon deleted, and the exact names of the spammers were nowhere to be found. Mr. Thurmond, the moderator

of the discussion boards, gave a talk to the seventh and eighth grades about the deteriorating quality of these boards. This talk seemed to have no effect on the spammers, however, and the irrelevant and downright stupid comments continued. If the quality of the discussion board comments does not improve, fewer people will read the posts, even the interesting ones, and more people will start following the trend of holding **ctrl+u** to zip through the unread posts quicker.

The list of the top seven spammers (as determined by Chris Hooks and Christian Sargent):

1. Nicholas Trogdon
2. Ross Blackwell
3. John Higham
4. Nilay Patel
5. Davis Lovvorn
6. Joe Richardson
7. Keon Cleary

Ms. Ellery Hits the Jackpot with Google

by Nicholas Green

Ms. Ellery entered the Google Earth Ancient Rome 3D competition. This competition is for the promotion of teachers and consists of three judges and three categories. Ms. Ellery entered the ninth to twelfth-grade level for teachers. She made a 3D project for students on Google Earth, having one of the emperors explain a 3D image of Ancient Rome. Ms. Ellery impressed the judges and won a Mac Laptop, digital camera, projector, and a gift card. She commented: "Google Earth software is a great resource for explaining Ancient Rome." Congratulations Ms. Ellery!



MBA's television star--Ms. Ellery!

FEATURES

Are Prayers in Public Schools Illegal?

by Hamilton Millwee

Sometime this year, there is a case going to the Supreme Court that is very controversial. In a nutshell, the case states that coaches in public schools will not be allowed to pray with their students before, during, or after an athletic event. Some people believe that by holding religious acts during public school hours or events, the separation of church and state is being breached. Sports activities are included. Coaches would not even be allowed to pray with a student-led prayer. In my opinion, a decision banning coaches praying with players is wrong, both legally and

morally.

Most people can probably understand the moral objections to this ruling. The main reason is that, no matter what religion a person is, he is obligated to practice that religion. This ruling would hinder that obligation.

Legally, it is obviously taking away the rights given in the First Amendment to the Constitution, which states that there shall be "no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the FREE EXERCISE THEREOF; or abridging the freedom of speech..." Though church and state



should be legally separate, not allowing a person to pray is an obvious infraction of the First Amendment. When a team begins a prayer and the coach is not allowed to freely exercise his right of prayer, it goes directly against the Constitution. Even when a coach organizes a prayer, students are allowed not to participate. It is not a church-state problem when a group of people, though praying, are not forcing their beliefs on others. Finally, the separation of church and state was instituted to make the government secular as opposed to non-secular. Praying with students but not forcing beliefs on them is fine for the same reason that "In God We Trust" is allowed. There is room for interpretation of whether God means Shiva, Yahweh, Allah, or whoever else a person may believe in. A person who prays with his coach can send the same prayer to the God or name he believes in, not just the God the coach believes in.

Because of these legal and moral reasons, there is no way that the Supreme Court should rule in favor of this case.

REALLY!??!

by Parrish Preston

As all eighth graders know, these past two years have been challenging, fun, and rewarding. Along the way, many students have misspoken, failed to think before they spoke, or even in some cases, were being completely serious when they opened their mouths to talk. Whatever the quote, no one will ever let these slip-ups be forgotten; they have made it to Rish's Top Ten List. By the end of this list, you'll too be asking REALLY!??!

1. "It's GEO---Thermal---Energy; you

gotta give them time to think about each word." - **Paul Moore** trying to explain what geothermal energy is to someone.

2. "Does America have a dictator?"- **Brandon Key**

3. **Coach Cooper**: "Did anyone go out of the country for the summer?"

"Oh, I went to Hawaii."- **Alexander Benedict**

4. "I think we deserve the land in Palestine more than you guys because we have more religion like Jesus and stuff."- **Brandon Key**

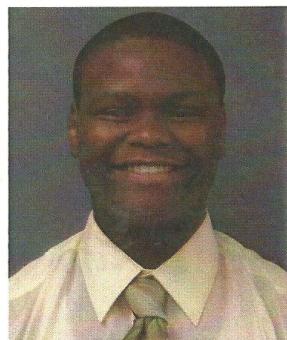
5. "Love is binding."- **McKay Procter** (with hand gestures)

6. "If I make a snowman, will it turn into a glacier?" **Mr. Spiegl**: "No, Brandon." "Well, what if I sit on it?"- **Brandon Key**

7. "When I die, can I be mummified?"- **Brandon Key**

8. "I'm not a Puer!"- **D.White**

continued on page 15



The quotable Brandon

FEATURES

Steroid Era: A Period of Lies?

by Davis Lovvorn

Big money lures players to perform at their best. Steroids were the solution to this temptation even as early as the 1960s. Amphetamine pills, known as "greenies," were one of the first steroids to find their way into clubhouses. It was said that these pills could help build muscle, therefore improving performance. In the 1980s, however, more "powerful" pills were being used to increase performance. In 1991, baseball commissioner Fay Vincent created the first anti-steroid rule, but it was very weak and unconvincing.

Current baseball commissioner Bud Selig was the first person to put an extreme crackdown on steroids, with the first offense being a suspension of 25 games, the second offense being 80 games, and the third offense being expulsion from the game completely. Some of us, although we were very little at the time, may remember the 1998 home run race. It showcased confirmed steroid users Sammy Sosa and Mark McGuire. McGuire won the

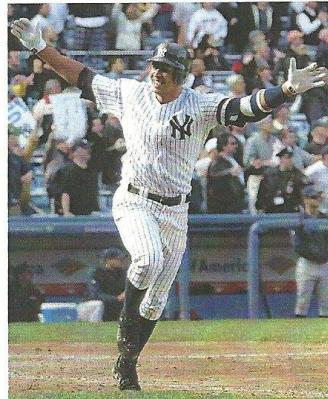
race, only to have his record of 70 home runs broken in 2001 by another convicted steroids user, Barry Bonds, who has 73 home runs.

Barry Bonds is now the leading homerun hitter, passing the clean and steroid-free Hank Aaron. Before Bonds allegedly started taking steroids in 1998, he was a star player for the Oakland Athletics, being a well-rounded player who could hit, field, and steal bases extremely well. Some said that he was a possible Hall-of-Fame candidate, that is, until he started using steroids. It is obvious to see the changes in Bonds' body. Before 1998, he was an extremely skinny guy who was good enough not to need steroids. After that, he became obviously bigger, slower, and much stronger. Did he start eating his vegetables? No, he started

using steroids. I think Bonds should not be the home run king, Bonds should not be in the Hall-of-Fame, and Aaron should get his title back.

The latest and maybe the most notable steroid user is Alex "A-Fraud" Rodriguez, who admitted to using steroids while with the Texas Rangers from 2001-2003. A-Rod is perhaps the greatest player of all-time, and this admission was of great shock to me. A-Rod had my utmost respect as a player until his admission a couple of weeks ago. He was allegedly being supplied by his cousin in the Dominican Republic. Having a 250-million-dollar contract with the Rangers, A-Rod had wealth already, but it wasn't enough for him. A couple of weeks ago, A-Rod reportedly had a cyst and torn ligament in his hip, which is a common steroid side-effect. Recently, A-Rod hit his 500th home run. Should this landmark be wiped out? Absolutely. I think all "juicers" need to be banned from the game.

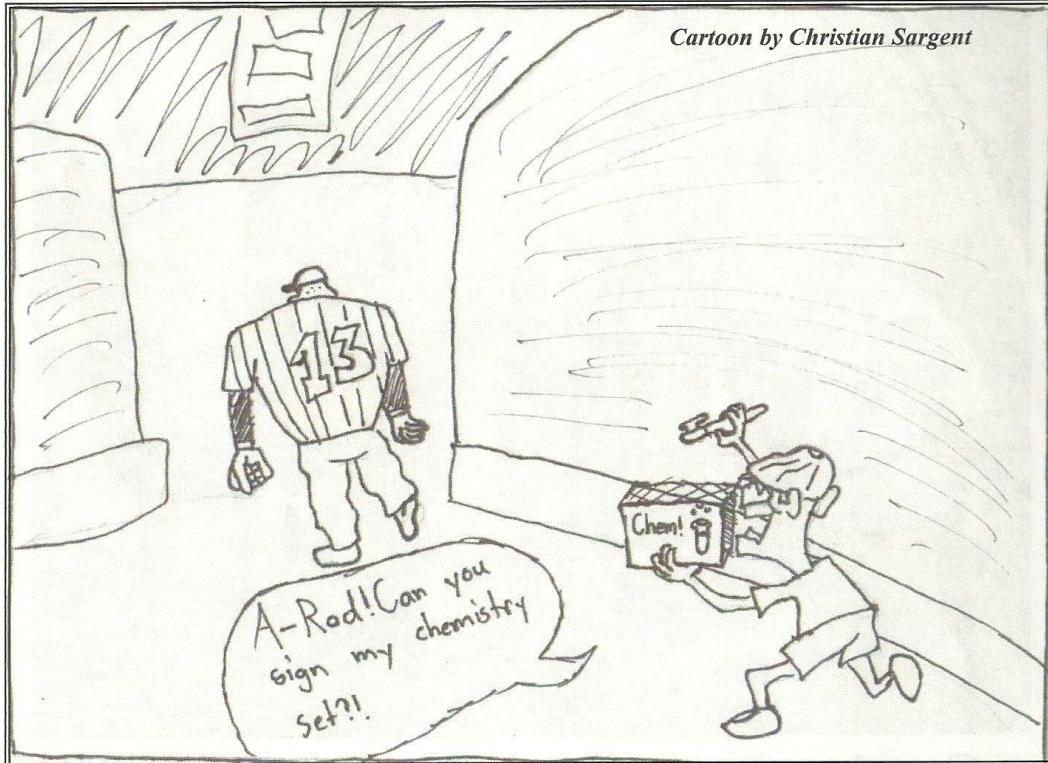
However, there is no proof that steroids actually work. A-Rod claims to have no idea if the steroids he received worked or not. Contrary to this opinion, Jose Canseco, another admitted steroid user, looks as if the steroids for him worked too well. Effective or not, I think all steroids users need to be banned immediately.



Alex Rodriguez



FEATURES



REALLY continued

We cannot forget about some teachers, who are as funny as the students. Enjoy these teacher quotes that I have chosen to exploit and publish on Rish's Top Ten. NOTE: If I am beheaded by Mrs. Roberts after this publication, my position of "photographer" will be promptly replaced.

1. "I need more than a Diet Coke this morning."- **Mrs. Roberts**
2. "ITSNOTB-FLAAAAAAAAT!!!!"- **Mr. Rundberg** in his natural habitat
3. "No matter what I do, no matter who I bribe."- **Mrs. Roberts**
4. "Excuses are like random chocolate popcorn balls you find in your

grandmother's house, but not here, Mark."- **Mr. Eppstein**

5. "If you put the Universe in a tube, it would be half the.., you wouldn't want to put the Universe in a tube."- **Mr. Eppstein**

6. "After looking at these tests, I've used a lot of profanity this morning."- **Mrs. Roberts**

7. "I could beat up Mr. Cooper."- **Mrs. Roberts**

8. "Jack Britain, you sound like a sassy Puerto Rican woman."- **Mr. Eppstein**

9. "Zach, I'm gonna zone in on your test like a dadgum laaathouse!"- **Mr. Wims**

10. **Mr. Rundberg:**
Saxophone = 900 dollars

Refurbished trumpet = 250 dollars

Having your band director walk out on you without a word for the last 40 minutes of class = Priceless

There are some things the eighth-grade jazz band can't play; for everything else, there's Mr. Rundberg.



"Not here, Mark!"

FEATURES

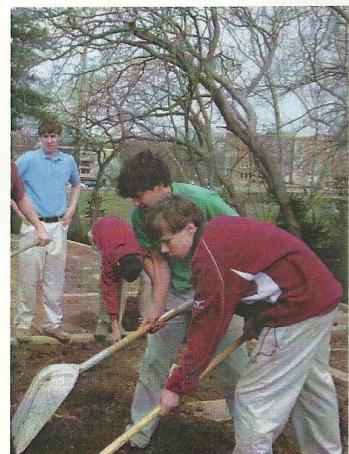


Gentleman, Scholar, Athlete, Farmer

by Jackson Crook

On April 9th, Mr. Spiegl's third-period earth science class was given a pickup truck bed full of the organic, nutrient-rich, slow-release fertilizer commonly known as horse manure, straight from Mrs. Christeson's farm. The students shoveled the manure from the back

of the truck onto the garden so that the soil microbes that horse manure is filled with, algae, fungi, bacteria, protozoa, etc., could facilitate the good health of the soil by breaking down organic matter, digesting insoluble substances, and reacting symbiotically with the plant roots. Mrs. Christeson's generous donation of homemade fertilizer resulted in fun for the students and benefit for the plants.



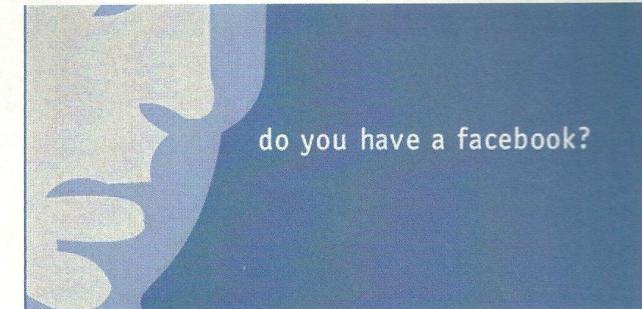
FEATURES

Facebook: What's Going On?

by Robert Papel

Facebook, as we all know, is the internet social networking site that allows people to chat, share photos, and generally learn about each other. It has well over a hundred million users. Facebook is a privately owned company based out of Pan Alto, California, but it was originally founded at Harvard in 2003. The founder was a sophomore named Mark Zuckerberg. The original name of Facebook was Facemash, a joke of his to get his ex-girlfriend off his mind. He was almost expelled, but Harvard relented and dropped all charges. Then in 2004, he renamed Facemash to The Facebook, opening up registration to all the students at Harvard. It expanded, eventually opening up to most universities in the U.S. and abroad, and then finally opening up to anyone who was thirteen or older that had an email address. In 2006, Zuckerberg dropped the "The" from the company's name. In August 2008, Facebook was valued between three and five billion dollars. Now let's get to the problems.

One of the main issues we hear about Facebook today is the violation of privacy. Pretty much anyone can see your profile, and if you aren't smart enough to think of that and put all your private info on there, such as an address, you could end up with some problems. Not that anything bad will happen to you, but there is that small possibility of stalkers, strangers, and other scary



people. In addition, Facebook launched a system called Beacon in 2007, allowing websites, like Yahoo and eBay, to put a Facebook page on their site and monitor all who use that page. These websites also send the info, like who used it, what they did, and so on, to Facebook. Using Beacon, Facebook can collect data from anyone who uses those websites' pages.

We have also had problems at MBA with Facebook. Just last year, over fifteen eighth graders were nailed by Mr. Thurmond for creating a page that made fun of another student. These students had deleted the page before they were caught, but the school requested a copy of the page from Facebook, who gave it to them. The lesson that can be learned is that no matter what you delete from Facebook, it never is permanently deleted. According to Mrs. Roberts, we have also had problems with Facebook this year.

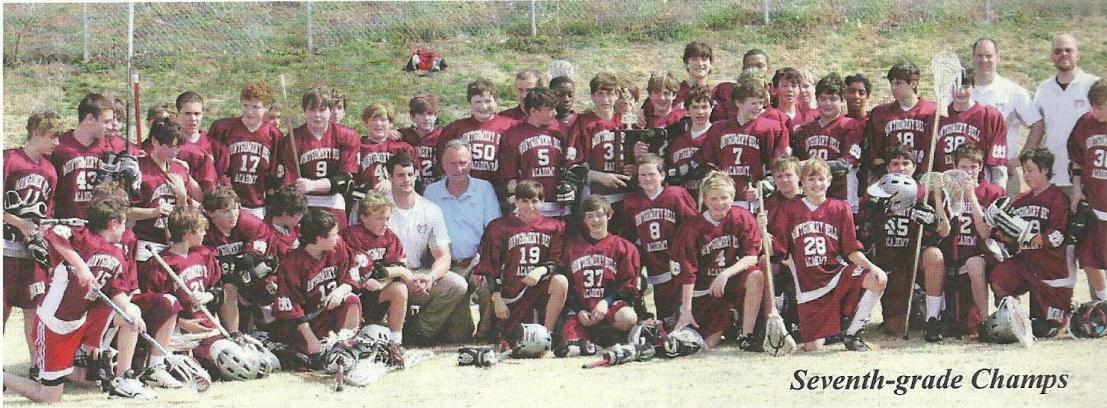
Facebook has a whole lot of other problems too. One of them is that when you want to deactivate your account for whatever reason, it leaves all of your information on Facebook's servers. To delete, you have to go manually through everything, your chats, friends (some people have over 400), posts, and everything else, taking a considerable amount of time and patience. People just don't want to go to this much trouble.

Facebook has also touched on some foreign law issues. In Italy, some people had created pro-mafia groups, which caused a national uproar. The Italian senate issued a ban making internet providers block access to Facebook if they have illegal content that they refuse to remove. This ban impedes on the international precedence of freedom of speech.

Facebook has been banned in multiple countries too. Syria, Burma, and Iran are examples. These countries are mostly Islamic, so banning Facebook has more to do with keeping with their strict cultural laws. Many schools have also banned Facebook, like the University of New Mexico, on the grounds that it is a violation of their internet use policy. Many schools, from elementary to high school, have also blocked Facebook from their servers. There are literally thousands of schools around the world that have instituted this prohibition. Nevertheless, most students know how to get around these bans by using proxy servers.

Overall, Facebook's intentions are not bad, but they do get a little out of hand. Lessons have been learned, such as not to post really private information. Facebook is a good way to stay in touch with your friends, wherever you may be. Rather than criticizing Facebook, we all need to use it wisely.

Nicholas Caroland Tourney



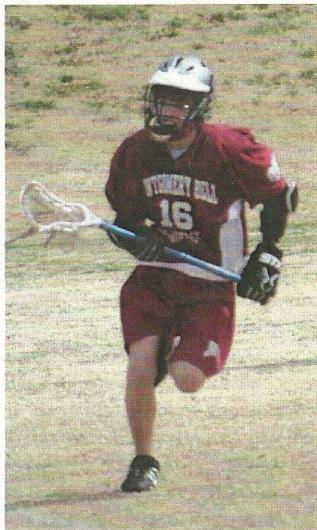
Seventh-grade Champs

Tourney Champions!

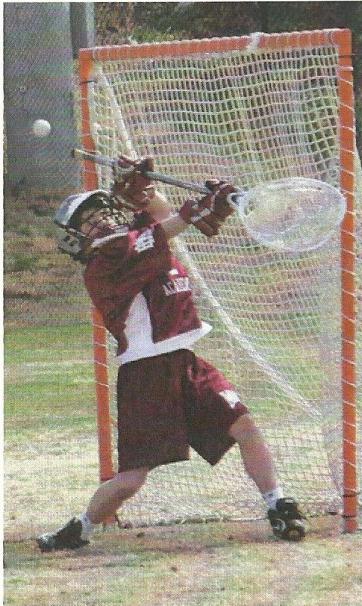
The MBA seventh-grade lacrosse team faced a tough and determined Brentwood Lacrosse Club B team in the final game of the Nicholas Caroland Memorial Tournament on Saturday, March 7. MBA led at the second half with a 5-3 score. Brentwood

scored with 1:00 remaining, but MBA won the following face off and retained possession until time expired to give them the 5-4 win.

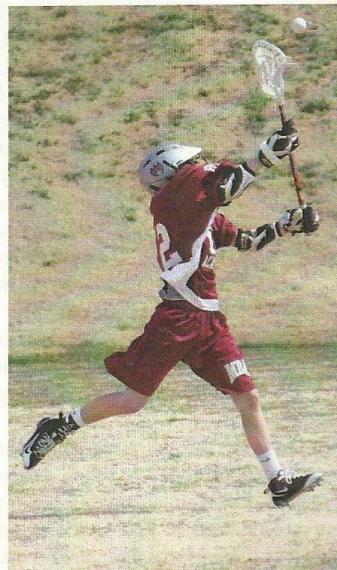
The eighth-grade team also won the Top Division of the Nicholas Caroland Tournament. The Big Red defeated the Franklin Knights in the championship game by a score of 9-3.



Hayden Palm



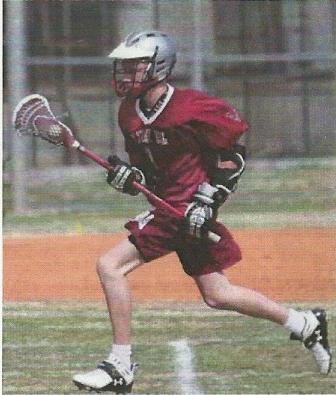
Wells Hamilton



Coleman Sorenson

*7th grade photos courtesy
of Anna-Gene O'Neal*

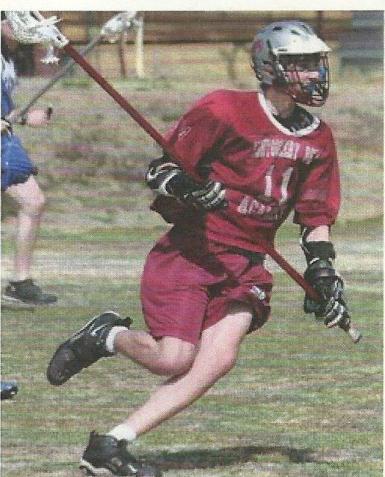
Nicholas Caroland Tourney



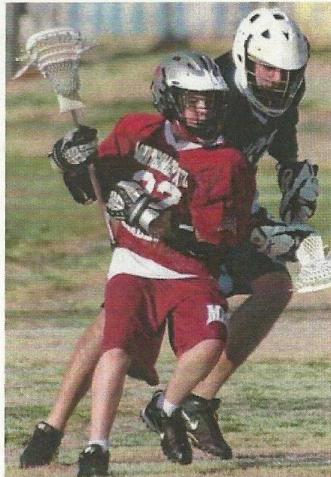
Ryan Flack



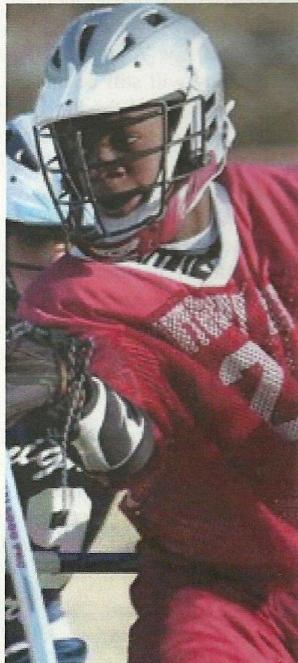
Eighth-grade Champs



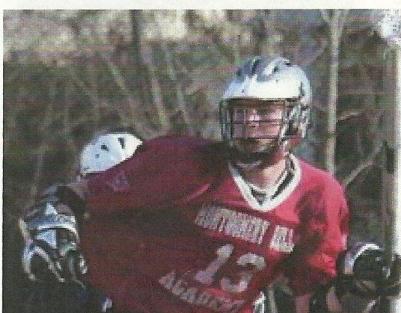
Drew Davis



David Maynard



Anthony Birdsong



Todd Baker



Jack Benton

*8th grade photos courtesy
of Faye Maynard*

SPORTS

Spring Training

by Sam Weien

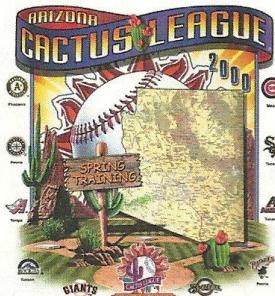
Over spring break, I saw the Cleveland Indians face the Milwaukee Brewers and the Los Angeles Dodgers in the world-famous Cactus League Spring Training in Arizona.

The Cleveland Indians have signed pitchers Kerry Wood and Carlos Pavano to try and bolster their pitching performances. Even though they have former Cy Young winner, Cliff Lee, pitching will still be one of their weaknesses. One of the big questions this year is if designated hitter Travis Hafner will be healthy because he is one of their key players. They have also signed Mark DeRosa to be their third baseman because they have had problems in this position before. Grady Sizemore had 33 homeruns last year and is still a very young player, so look for him to be good in the next few years.

From what I saw, the Milwaukee Brewers will be good this year with first baseman Prince Fielder and outfielder Ryan Braun leading



Prince Fielder of the Brewers



the way. Shortstop J.J. Hardy had 24 homeruns last year and outfielder Mike Hart had 26. Fielder, Braun, Hardy, and Hart will be key members of their batting line-up this year. The Brewers lost key pitchers CC Sabathia and Ben Sheets, but they signed all-time saves leader Trevor Hoffman to help the pitching staff. Look for youngster Yovani Gallardo to replace CC Sabathia and dominate on the Brewers' pitching rotation. The Brewers are a young team, so look for them to be good in around five to seven years.

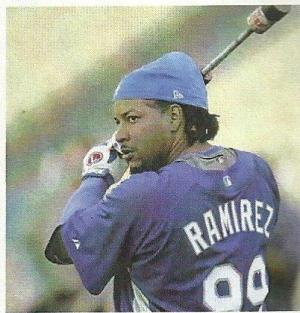
The Los Angeles Dodgers will be good with Manny Ramirez, but they have had some key losses too. Some of their losses include shortstop Nomar Garciapara, pitchers Derek Lowe and Greg Maddux, and outfielder Andruw Jones. They have a very young pitching staff that will not be as good as last year's but still might be decent. Third baseman Casey Blake and shortstop Rafael Furcal will be team leaders on their attempt to make another playoff run. The Dodgers have to be able to get mid-season additions like they did last year to have a good shot of making the playoffs.

Some other teams to watch this year, even though I didn't see them, are the San Francisco Giants and the Chicago Cubs. San Francisco will have a good pitching lineup with pitchers such as Tim Lincecum, Randy

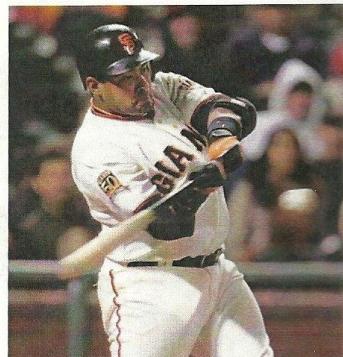
Page 20

Johnson, Barry Zito, and Matt Cain. They have also signed shortstop Edgar Reneteria to improve their infield. Watch catcher Benji Molina because he had .292 batting average and 95 RBIs last year. The Chicago Cubs have lost many pitchers and third baseman Mark DeRosa, but they still have good talent in outfielders Kosuke Fukudome and Alfonso Soriano, first baseman Derrek Lee, and pitchers Ted Lilly, and Carlos Zambrano. But you better catch them soon because the Cubs want a new stadium, and Mesa won't give them one.

Even though baseball is struggling with the steroid issue, it's still a great pastime. Look for a team you can cheer for, and join the fun!



The 45-million-dollar-Manny at Spring Training



Benji Molina

SPORTS



The Past, Present, and Future of the NBA

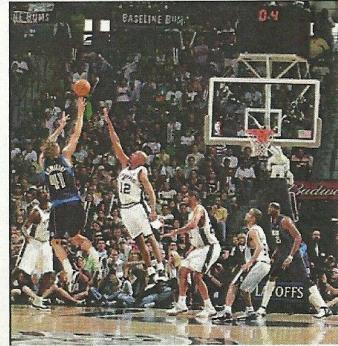
by Brandon Carpenter

Being one of the four major professional sports in North America, the National Basketball Association is definitely important. Along with the present, the history of the NBA is very interesting. The NBA was founded on June 6, 1946, in New York City. However, the league was recognized as the Basketball Association of America, or BAA, before merging with the National Basketball League (NBL) to form the NBA. This merger took place on August 3, 1949, creating seventeen

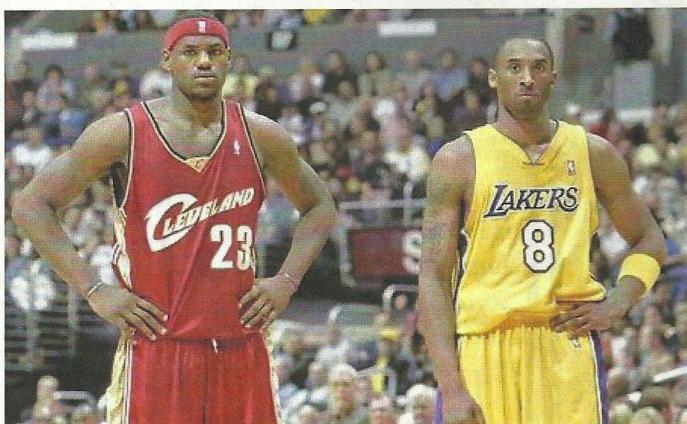
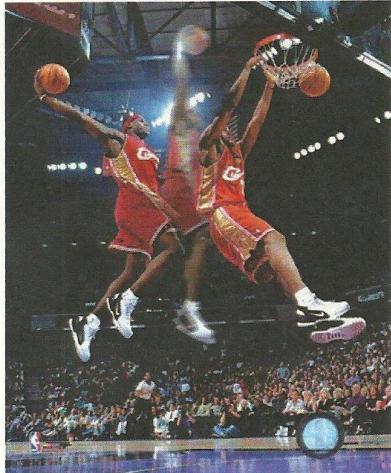
franchises with the NBA.

Over the years, the NBA gained and lost certain franchises. At one point, the NBA only had eight teams in its league. Also throughout the years, a number of teams moved to different cities. Some of the moves included the Pistons moving from Fort Wayne to Detroit, the Lakers from Minneapolis to L.A., and the Warriors from Philadelphia to San Francisco. Another move included the Grizzlies from Vancouver to Memphis, leaving the Toronto Raptors as the only NBA team located in Canada. Before the American Basketball Association was known as the "minor league," it was in competition with the NBA. Of course, the NBA prevailed as the "true professional league." You might not know that the Spurs, Nuggets, Pacers, and Nets were originally in the ABA, but the NBA acquired these teams through a deal with the ABA. The NBA also got the idea of adding the three-point line from the ABA. The NBA is quite different today than it was in the mid to late 1900s.

As of Thursday March 23, 2009, the Cleveland Cavaliers are



leading the NBA with a record of fifty-seven wins and thirteen losses. The Sacramento Kings are the worst in the league with a record of fifteen wins and fifty-five losses. The play-offs are just around the corner starting in mid-April. Many teams' hopes for the play-offs are very bright, but others are not. Already, seven teams have been eliminated from play-off contention. The Lakers and Cavaliers are projected by ESPN.com to be the number one seeds. Most websites predict the finals will be between Cleveland and L.A. Several internet sites, including ESPN.com, are picking the Lakers to win, but I think the championship is up for grabs.



Will we see a LeBron and Kobe face-off in April?

THE BACK PAGE



"Can we put 'shoveling manure' as a service project on our college applications?"

Top of the Hill Staff

Nicholas Green and Robert Papel.....	Editors-in-Chief
Hamilton Millwee.....	Features Editor
James Higgins.....	Sports Editor
Ryan Potter and Christian Sargent.....	Entertainment Editors
Jackson Crook and Parrish Preston.....	Photographers
Mrs. Pettus, Mrs. Roberts, Ms. Vaughan.....	Sponsors